

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 2, 1866.
To the Hon. Charles Sumner, Washington, D. C.

SIR—Yesterday the colored people of Charleston and places adjacent met to celebrate for the first time, the Emancipation Proclamation of your late President, Abraham Lincoln.

The heavens were propitious; for, though it has been raining daily for the past four weeks, not a drop fell yesterday, but to day the windows of heaven are open, and the rain pours.

The people gathered to the number of at least 15,000 souls upon the Race Course,—Audiences, schools, and other associations—to hear the speeches and learn the purpose of the Government concerning the land question, and in relation to this most vital point great anxiety is felt. The meeting was addressed by Gen. Saxton, Mr. French, Gen. Devout, and others. Good order characterized all the proceedings, and I saw and heard no drunkenness, profanity, or bawdry, though the rebels have been sowing the community with rumors, that insurrection and violence was at the bottom of this affair. I am elated. I feel proud of the sober, thoughtful conduct of my people. The pitch of all the speeches were to this effect, that the Government had no hand to assign to the freedom of this State, and that we must believe ourselves go to work, and buy land. This advice is good enough, if it were compatible with the state of things about us, which it is not. There stood hundreds of men and women half clad and shivering listening to that cold comfort, when sons, brothers, husbands, and lovers lay, with a bullet through their heads, before rebel entrenchments at Fort Wagner and on every other battleground in this State.

Now, I guess, as a black Yankee, that among the objects proposed by a good government, is to make it possible for the people to behave themselves to work to educate their children, and to buy land, and the government to carry out faithfully the pledges and promises made by its authorized agents to the people at large. How about Sherman's order and pledges to us concerning the Sea Islands?

The rebels are driving the people by hundreds from the plantations where they raised crops last summer, and many painful rumors exist of violence, and men, women, and children are to be seen daily coming into the city, seeking a shelter, who six years earnest wished to stay in the country and cultivate the land.

How plain is it, that, if this state of things continue, that hundreds of landless persons of this class will be forced to live in poverty and degradation in these Southern cities, following emigration, and engrossed in that fierce struggle for a mere existence that always attends bad legislation, and the lowest strata of society is the greatest sufferer.

My friend Horace Greeley, has been saying to the colored people of the North, Why do you not go into the country, and farm it in independence? Why remain in the large cities, and endure the snubs and privations incident to your condition? I will briefly answer. When slavery was abolished in the North, an wise system of legislation was inaugurated, whose declared policy was to keep the colored people poor and dependent, in order to oppose the prejudices of the South, who was threatening for years to dissolve the Union. The time came when men saw the disadvantage of an undue proportion of colored people in the cities North; and then many of our preachers began to say, Why not go to the country? why stay in cities? and said many inland words, out of sheer perplexity, in their anxiety to rectify the evil.

They were wrong themselves in the first instance. Instead of demanding every right for the colored people they claimed for themselves, they contented themselves with bestowing upon the colored men nominal freedom. What has been the result? Do not some curses come home to roost? Let the past four years answer.

Gov. Perry said in a recent proclamation to the people of this State, Treat the freedmen kindly, but make them feel their dependence on us. That was a mistake, and showed plainly that Gov. Perry did not wish in a true appreciation of the duties of his position.

In a word, we do not, what, to be dependents upon any particular class of the community. We simply want the largest liberty, to sink or swim, that is accorded to civilized society—a home, a home is what every freedman wants to have, as a vital necessity. And how is this possible if we own not a foot of land in this State? There are in round numbers 600,000 colored people in this State, and we are not in law the owners of a single foot of land in this State. Oh! shame! after the toil of our fathers in this State for more than a hundred years.

A great many good-meaning men have been telling us that liberty means the right to, slay, and something more, we guess, the right to enjoy what we work for, and security in our persons and property. Let the legislation of this State be so shaped that in ten years hence we shall own, as a just reward for our toil, a fair share of the soil in comfortable homesteads, and all parties, white and colored, will be wiser and happier, for the people of South Carolina will then know that the Federal power is the supreme law of the land.

Yours, very respectfully

JONATHAN C. GRIMES.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 29th.
T. N. Hayes, Esq., Chairman Committee of Arrangements Emancipation Celebration, and others.

GENTLEMEN—I have been informed this day that I have been chosen as one of the marshals of the day for the procession to take place on the 1st of January proximo. I regret much that I was not apprised of the fact earlier. As it is, previous engagements, of a peculiarly pressing nature, precludes the possibility of my taking a part in the festivity on that occasion. Sensible of the honor conferred, I take this method of returning my heartfelt acknowledgements. Permit me to hope that the celebration may be one long to be remembered with pride and pleasure, and its character commensurate with and deserving of, the occasion which it commemorates.

RAS-TUR.

(Advertisement)

HOR. ISN'T IT—Such is the question asked us by perspiring friends about an average forty-eight times per twenty-four hours, which is exact as, the mathematical mind can readily compute once every thirty minutes. To this interrogatory (which is rather an exclamation than a question) we reply, in a ringing voice, "Yes, very—wiping our handsome face with a fresh handkerchief. This generally terminates the conversation with my acquaintances; but to our intimate friends we are accustomed to add, in a whisper, this golden advice—Try HUBBELL'S GOLDEN BITTERS. They cool as well as invigorate.

RASTER.

F. L. T.
G. U. O. or O. F.
Jan 3rd, 1866.

All proper and necessary arrangements having been made, by and with the consent of the S. C. M. of America, of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, a branch Lodge of the Order was on the 15th Dec, 1865, by P. N. E. Robert McDougal, at 430 King Street, assisted by legal and competent assistants, constituted and opened with the rites and ceremonies of the Order, in the city of Charleston, S. C., to be known as Fraternal Lodge No. 1061 of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, and the following named brethren were duly qualified and installed as the officers of said Lodge:

M. G. CAMPBELL, N. F.
PAUL McCALLI POINSETT, N. G.
W. E. MARSHALL, V. G.
A. J. BASSER, E. S.
A. E. O'NEILL, Treasurer.
JAS. HOLOWAY, O. G.
W. J. BRODIE, I. G.
H. BORDENAE, Warden.
JOHN BOUTIN, Conductor.
ROBERT McDougall, P. N. F.

All information as to the above to be obtained at this office.

Attest,

John McDougall, P. N. F.

Attest,